

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 17086 271906Z

42

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SCI-06 SCEM-02

INT-08 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

SIL-01 LAB-06 IO-14 (ISO) W
----- 101163

R 271726Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8920

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

FAA BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS BONN 17086

FRANKFURT FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, GW

SUBJ: CIVAIR - GERMAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER END SIX MONTHS
OF SLOW DOWN

REF: BONN 14779

1. SUMMARY. ON NOVEMBER 25, FRG AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SIX MONTHS RETURNED TO WORK FULL TIME AND STAFFED ALL SHIFTS AS SCHEDULED THROUGHOUT THE FRG. THIS MARKED THE APPARENT END OF THE FRG'S LONGEST AND COSTLIEST SLOW-DOWN AND MESSIVE SICK-OUT ACTION IN THE AIR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ACTION WAS PRECEDED BY A SERIES OF URGENT APPEALS FROM CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND TRANSPORT MINISTER LAURITZEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FRG'S FIRST EMERGENCY MEASURES IN THE ENERGY CRISIS. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION PICKED UP THE APPEAL AND URGED THE MEMBERS OF HIS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 17086 271906Z

ASSOCIATION TO DISPLAY ONCE MORE THE DEDICATION "ABOVE AND BEYOND

THE CALL OF DUTY" THEY HAD SHOWN PRIOR TO MAY 31. ONE PRESS COMMENTATOR REFERRED TO THE CONTROLLERS' "PSYCHOLOGICAL MASTER-PIECE" IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES TO JOIN RANKS BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT LOSING FACE.

3. LUFTHANSA HAS TOLD US THEY ARE MAKING PLANS TO STEP UP THEIR DOMESTIC SERVICES, WHICH HAD BEEN SEVERLY HIT. PRESENTLY, WINTER SCHEDULES ARE ONLY 50 PERCENT IN OPERATION. GENERAL AIR, A REGIONAL OPERATOR PROVIDING DOMESTIC SERVICES UNDER CONTRACT WITH LUFTHANSA, HAD BEEN FORCED TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS COMPLETELY. THE CARRIER NOW EXPECTS TO RESUME SERVICES ON NOVEMBER 26 AND PHASE GRADUALLY TO A REASONABLY NORMAL SCHEDULE BY JANUARY 2 WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON BOTH CARRIERS BY CURRENT JET FUEL AVAILABILITIES.

4. WHILE TALKS BETWEEN THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS, LABOR UNIONS AND CONTROLLER REPRESENTATIVES ARE EXPECTED TO GET UNDERWAY SOONEST, THE PENDING LEGAL DISPUTS, IN PARTICULAR THE QUESTION OF LIABILITY FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF ECONOMIC DAMAGES, WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME TO RESOLVE.

5. AS MATTERS NOW STAND IN THE COURTS, ON NOVEMBER 16 THERE WAS A RULING IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FAVOR THAT THE "DISTURBANCES" CAUSED BY CONTROLLERS TO THE NORMAL OPERATIONS OF AIR TRAFFIC OVER THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WERE ILLEGAL. THE CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION WAS TOLD TO CEASE FROM REPRESENTING THE CONTROLLERS' SLOW DOWN AND MASSIVE SICK-OUT TO THE PUBLIC AS LEGITIME MEASURES IN PRESSING FOR THEIR DEMANDS. ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT BY ASSOCIATION SPOKESMEN COULD HENCEFORTH BE PUNISHABLE UNDER LAW. THE COURT ALSO CONSIDERED IT ILLEGAL FOR CONTROLLERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR UNIQUE POSITION IN A TECHNICAL FIELD TO PRESS FOR THEIR DEMANDS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO EXCESSIVE SALARY INCREASES. THE COURT FINDING THAT THE CONTROLLERS' ACTION SINCE MAY IS ILLEGAL WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT CIVIL SERVANTS (BEAMTE) DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO STRIKE AND THAT REDUCTIONS IN STANDARDS OF WORK PERFORMANCE AND MASSIVE SICK-OUTS ARE NOT LEGITIME MEANS IN AN EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE DISPUTE. CONTRARY TO GOVERNMENT HOPES, HOWEVER, THE COURT FOUND NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT THE CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION, "DESPITE CONSIDERABLE ELEMENTS OF SUSPICION", HAD INSTIGATED OR GUIDED THE CONTROLLERS ACTIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BONN 17086 271906Z

6. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A COURT HAS TAKEN SUCH A DEFINITE STAND ON THESE POINTS, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT AN IMPORTANT PRELIMINARY DECISION ON THE EVE OF THE MAIN PROCEEDING WHICH IS TO START BEFORE THE COURT IN HANNOVER ON NOVEMBER 29.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THIS CEASEFIRE IS MOST WELCOME, DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT THE HARD ISSUES INVOLVED IN THIS DISPUTE REMAIN

TO BE SETTLED.
HILLENBRAND

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRAFFIC, CIVIL AVIATION, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, STRIKE SETTLEMENT, LABOR DISPUTES, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN17086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731112/aaaaaigr.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BONN 14779
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <28-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - GERMAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER END SIX MONTHS OF SLOW DOWN
TAGS: ETRN, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005